

India's Fastest Pitchers

Rinku Bhramdeen Singh, winner of a contest to find India's fastest baseball pitcher, has earned a \$100,000 contract to train in Los Angeles, California, for one of America's leading sports leagues. Joining him is runner-up Dinesh Kumar Patel.

Singh and Patel will train under the sponsorship of J.B. Bernstein, a talent scout for Major League Baseball. They will also get a chance to try out for a professional team for the 2009 season.

The hunt was launched in India in December 2007 as part of the American sport's global search for talented athletes. The competition began with a tour of 20 cities, followed by qualifying rounds in New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Chennai and Chandigarh, and the final in Mumbai.

The contest offered up to \$1 million for the winner if he could pitch three strikes above 151 kilometers per hour. However, Singh failed to make any strike in this bonus round.

Congratulating Singh and Patel, U.S. Ambassador David C. Mulford said, "This is an absolutely fantastic opportunity for these young



From left: Rinku Bhramdeen Singh, winner of a contest to find India's fastest pitchers, looks on as runner-up Dinesh Kumar Patel is congratulated by U.S. Ambassador David C. Mulford in New Delhi. Standing with them is coach and interpreter Deepesh Solanki.

men, but it's also a fantastic opportunity for Major League Baseball. In Major League Baseball there is a wide variety of participants from other nations,

but there has been no representation at this point of any magnitude from the great nation of India."

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